



SIGNER OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

WILLIAM PATERSON

1745 — 1806

William Paterson was Governor of New Jersey from 1790 - 1792. He settled with his father, a tinplate manufacturer, at Princeton and graduated from there in 1763. He studied law under Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Paterson was elected to the Provincial Congress in 1775. He was a member of the committee that arrested Royal Governor William Franklin. Paterson was in the U.S. Senate from 1789 - 1790. Paterson was New Jersey's first Attorney General and the leader of New Jersey's delegation at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He advanced the "small state" plan of equal representation for each state. Large states wanted representation proportionate to population. The compromise was the Senate and House of Representatives. As Governor he endorsed a plan of Alexander Hamilton and associates for developing a society for the Establishment of Useful Manufactures on the Passaic River. This site would become the city of Paterson, named in his honor. He published the first laws of New Jersey in 1792, and in 1793 Paterson was named to the United States Supreme Court.